



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,561	11/19/2003	Kazuhiro Ukida	UKID3001/EM	5056
23364 7590 06/04/2007 BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER SILBERMANN, JOANNE	
			ART UNIT 3611	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/715,561	Applicant(s) UKIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Joanne Silbermann	Art Unit 3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 1-4 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 24 February 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art shown in Figure 7 and defined on pages 1 and 2 of the Specification (Figure 7) in view of Ogden, US #4,478,666 in view of Miwa, US #4,625,097.
4. Figure 7 shows an equipment utilizing water comprising operation section 60, member 55, transparent film 59 on member 55 and outer case 51. As shown in Figure 7, members 59, 55 and 51 are tightly formed. Figure 7 fails to disclose making member 55 from transparent material. Ogden shows a control panel (Figure 1) that includes transparent member 16 which includes transparent cover 18 on a front surface and decoration 50 on opposite surface 65 of transparent member 16. In view of the teachings of Ogden it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the

Art Unit: 3611

art to modify the admitted prior art of Figure 7 by making member 55 transparent since this would allow a decoration to be placed on the lower surface of the transparent member which would allow the decoration/indicia to be protected from damage in a better manner and would help create a more aesthetically pleasing display panel on the equipment utilizing water.

5. Regarding claim 5, the admitted prior art and Ogden teach Applicant's basic inventive concept except for attaching a decoration to a portion of the transparent film. Miwa shows (Figures 1-4) equipment utilizing water (particularly a rice cooker) including upper transparent member 51 including decoration/indicia 52, 53 thereon. In view of the teachings of Miwa it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Applicant's Figure 7 by attaching a decoration/indicia to the transparent film since this would allow additional information to be displayed on the display panel as well as to allow the decoration/indicia to be displayed in a more eye-catching and aesthetically pleasing manner.

6. Regarding claim 6, the admitted prior art teaches Applicant's basic inventive concept except for placing a claw and/or boss into which a screw is screw-fitted on member 51 in order to attach the outer member to the rice cooker. Miwa teaches placing boss 39 (Figure 2) which receives screw 43 on a colored member for attaching an outer member to the rice cooker. In view of the teachings of Miwa, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify Figure 7 by providing a boss that receives a screw on the colored member since this would allow the outer member to be attached to the rice cooker in a faster, easier and more secure manner.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 14 March 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

8. As discussed in the above rejection, the prior art Figure shows the three layer structure but does not teach the middle layer as being transparent. This is shown by Ogden, see particularly Figure 1 layer 16. Ogden does not teach a rice cooker, but does show a control panel. The combination of the two provides a rice cooker (prior art Figure 7) with a control panel as shown in Ogden. Additionally, Ogden specifically teaches the decoration as being provided on either the front 64 or back 65 of middle layer 16 (column 9 lines 6-9).

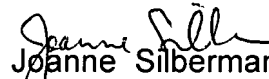
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joanne Silbermann whose telephone number is 571-272-6653. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 - 2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 571-272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3611

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Joanne Silberman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

js
29 May 2007